

**DATA STANDARDS AND QUALITY CONTROL  
MEMORANDUM  
DSQC #2008-05**

**CATEGORY:** CLARIFICATION  
**SUBJECT:** Multiple Primary Coding Rules  
**EFFECTIVE:** Cases Diagnosed 1/1/2007 forward

The CCR would like to clarify the Multiple Primary and Coding Rules, General Instructions, Determining Multiple Primaries for Solid Malignant Tumors.

A. General Information, #7 states: Do not use a physician's statement to decide whether the patient has a recurrence of a previous cancer or a new primary. Use the multiple primary rules as written unless a pathologist compares {slide review} the present tumor to the "original" tumor and states that this tumor is a recurrence of a cancer from the previous primary.

**CLARIFICATION: This does not apply to metastatic tumors.**

*Examples of metastatic tumors, not tumor recurrences:*

- History of malignant melanoma presents with positive lymph nodes
- History of breast carcinoma presents with malignant pleural effusion.

**Note:** In applying MP/H rules, tumor recurrences only relate to the organ of origin. Metastatic tumors in regional and distant site are not considered tumor recurrences when applying the MP/H rules.